Inflation Rate

1289 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the wide difference in inflation rates based on the wholesale prices index and the consumer price index particularly since the third quarter of financial year 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons if any identified therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The inflation rate based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for the third quarter of 1995-96 is listed in the Table below.

Table

Annual Inflation Rate

1995-96	Based on WPI	Based on CPI-IW
October	8.4	10.4
November	8.3	10.3
December	6.4	9.7
January	5.0	9.0
February	4.6	8.6
March	5.1	8.9
1996-97		
April	5.0	9.6
May	4.5	9.3
June	4.5	8.8
July	6.0	8.3
August	5.6	8.9
September	6.4(P)	8.5
October	6.4(P)	N.A.

(P=Provisional)

(c) The difference in the inflation rate between the two series is primarily due to the difference in their commodity composition and hence their weights. The weight of the food items in the CPI-IW is almost twice that in the WPI; as against a weight of 32 assigned to food items in WPI, the weight given to food items in CPI-IW is 57. Hence higher rise in the price of food products relative to non-food products has resulted in a higher inflation rate based on the CPI-IW.

(d) The supply-side measures taken by the Government to moderate the rise in prices of food item include the continued open market sale of foodgrains by the FCI besides strengthening and expanding the coverage through PDS. On demand side, Government is striving to contain fiscal deficit in the budget for 1996-97 to 5% of GDP and to contain monetary growth to 15.5-16% through prudent monetary policy.

Import of Ammonia

1290. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for import of Ammonia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the price fixed for this item;

(c) the impact on domestic price of ammonia due to import of ammonia;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from the Kerala against the import of ammonia;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As per information received from Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Government does not import ammonia since it was decanalised w.e.f. 1.4.1992.

(c) Information relating to impact on domestic price of ammonia due to import of ammonia is not maintained by the Ministry of Commerce.

(d) to (f). As per information received from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, though no representation has been received from the Government of Kerala against import of ammonia, a Civil Appeal is pending before the Supreme Court titled "FACT & Others versus Law Society of India & others" on the issue of environmental threat posed by ammonia storage facility of FACT at Willingdon Island in Cochin Port.

Production of Vehicle

1291. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have urged the Indian Automobile Units to produce vehicles in which consumption of Oil is less;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by different automobile manufacturer to produce such vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). It has been the policy of the Government to encourage manufacture of fuel efficient

vehicles. Certain fiscal incentives were being given for manufacture of such vehicles. However, as a result of rationalisation of duty structure, these incentives have since been withdrawn.

(c) Automotive vehicle manufacturers have entered into foreign technical collaborations to import technology for manufacture of fuel efficient vehicles.

Domestic Demand and Import of Coffee

1292. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of average monthly requirement of coffee in the domestic market at present;

(b) the total quantity of coffee sold with its value in the domestic market during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any gap between demand and supply of coffee in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the demand of coffee in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The average monthly requirement of coffee in the domestic market is estimated around 4500-5500 tonne.

(b) The total quantity of coffee sold with its value in the domestic market is as follows :-

Year	Quantity (in tonne)	Value (Rs. In crore)
1993	49928	231.97
1994	54000	542.70
1995	54000	583.20

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Coffee Board undertakes various promotional measures like participation in festivals fairs and exhibitions in the internal market to promote consumption of coffee. The Board also conducts training programme in coffee brewing techniques to promote consumption of coffee.

Setting up of A Task Force on Common Effluent Treatment Plants

1293. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a task force for coordination the issue relating to setting up of common effluent treatment plants and remove impediments causing delays in the commissioning of projects;

(b) if so, the composition of the task force;

(c) whether the representatives of the financial institutions have also been associated with the task force; and

(d) the extent to which the task force has helped in removing the impediments causing delays in the commissioning of projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Govt. has constituted a task force on 5.7.96 to co-ordinate action relating to setting up of common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) for tanneries. This task force is composed of representatives from the following organisations including financial institutions :-

Ministries of Environment & Forests, Industry, Commerce; Central Leather Research Institute; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute; Central/ State Pollution Control Boards of Tamil Nadu, UP, West Bengal, IDBI; SIDBI; HUDCO; UNIDO; National Leather Development Programme and Council for leather exports.

(d) The Task Force has been coordinating all matters relating to CETPs. In its first meeting on 15.10.96 issues concerning removal of ceiling on Central subsidy on setting up of CETPs; providing bridge loan facility by financial Institutions; providing technical consultancy by CLRI and NEERI for preventing of tannery pollution; review of pollution discharge norms; import duty concessions on certain special chemicals and equipments required for treatment of tannery effluent etc. were considered.

Filling up of Reserved Posts in RBI

1294. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the posts reserved in class IV and class III for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not being filled up in Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the recruitment with proper justice to all categories?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there is no backlog in Scheduled Castes posts, either in clerical or sub-staff categories. There is, however, backlog in Scheduled Tribes posts in these categories. RBI have further reported that due to the on-going re-organisation of certain departments, increasing computerisation and devolution of powers to public sector banks in respect of certain function shitherto performed by the Bank, there has been a decline in its staff requirements. However, the backlog of Scheduled